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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2002/07/23 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000900810003-0

TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

25X1X	EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1C
25X1C	DATE OF CONTENT		
25X1C	DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED 16 March 1953	
REFERENCES			
PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)			
REMARKS			
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1. From 25 through 31 January 1953, there was daily air activity at Merseburg airfield. The weather was overcast with occasional strong winds. At 4 p.m. on 8 February, six MiG-15s were parked near the eastern end of the runway, which was apparently not cleared of snow. There was flying on 9 February.

2. Air activity observed from 30 January through 19 February included:

30 January. There was flying from 9:40 a.m. to 4 p.m. There was a 10/10 overcast at an altitude of about 500 meters with a visibility of about 2,000 meters. From 9:40 to 9:45 a.m., planes [] took off in that order. Skillful formation flying below and above the clouds was observed. Planes [] made local training flights.

31 January. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., planes [] practiced dives over the field. Weather was 2/10 overcast at an altitude of about 2,000 meters, visibility was good. Planes [] practiced formation flying above and below the clouds.

4 February. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., individual local flights were made. Weather was overcast and visibility about 1,000 meters.

5 February. Only individual flights were observed. Weather was overcast at an altitude of about 300 meters.

10 February. Plane [] flew circles over the field, while plane [] practiced flying over the clouds. There was an 8/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters; visibility was good.

11 February. Formation flying in groups of five was practiced from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. [] A Yak-11 [] was also observed flying. The weather was fair.

12 February. No air activity was observed. There was a 10/10 overcast at an altitude of 500 meters and visibility about 4,000 meters.

14 February. Two MiG-15s landed about 3 p.m. No take-offs were observed on

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this day. The weather was overcast at an altitude of 500 meters and visibility about 2,000 meters.

15 February. No air activity was observed. It rained and there was an overcast at an altitude of 500 meters; visibility was about 1,000 meters.

17 to 19 February. Individual local training flights were observed.

11 February. Thirty-four MiG-15s and three single engine planes, presumably Yak-11's were observed at the field.

3. Source observed in the course of the winter that flying was conducted at the field when snow was up to 5 cm deep. No flying was usually conducted when snow was deeper than 5 cm. No clearing of snow from the runway was observed. Source noticed that the red lamps on the east side of the runway were burning when the runway was covered with snow.
4. Source observed twice or three times that some of the alert planes participated in air activity. While these planes were aloft, no other planes were parked on the site of the alert flight.
5. Source learned [redacted] that Colonel Kankanov was the Soviet airfield commandant.

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1. [redacted] Comment. The headquarters of the fighter division and a fighter regiment are stationed at Veroburg airfield. The air activity observed followed the previous pattern. It was previously reported that the pilots at the field were well trained in formation flying. [redacted] reported for the first time. No [redacted] previously observed in Kooten, [redacted] in Brandenburg-Eriest, and [redacted] in Lacrz.
2. [redacted] Comment. The name of Colonel Kankanov is reported for the first time.

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